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## ARTICLES

### DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

SPREADING THE LOAD (Economist, vol. 385, no. 8558, December 8, 2007, pp. 19-21)

A new wave of science projects on the web is harnessing volunteers' computers, and their talents, in novel ways. There is nothing new about networks of amateurs helping scientists do their jobs -- ornithologists rely on bird-watchers to keep track of changing patterns of migration, astronomers have long profited from enthusiasts scanning the skies to spot new comets, and archaeologists benefit from amateurs' findings. However, volunteer computing is a huge untapped resource; the potential for such citizen science is expanding rapidly because of the greatly increased processor power of personal computers, and a similarly speedy growth of the bandwidth available to ordinary Internet users. People with no special tools other than a PC and a broadband Internet connection can take part in complex scientific projects; one such undertaking is Africa@home, co-ordinated by the University of Geneva, which enlists volunteers to extract useful cartographic information on such positions as roads, villages, and fields, from satellite images of regions in Africa, to assist in humanitarian projects.

Alarkon, Walter IN DEFENSE OF FRONTLOADING (Campaigns & Elections, vol. 28, no. 12, December 2007, pp. 14-15)

The author notes that there has been plenty of coverage regarding Americans' concerns with the early primaries schedule. Among the criticisms are that the schedule does not provide enough time for a candidate to recover from an early loss and results in an excruciatingly long general election. But, as Alarkon argues, there are some benefits to moving the primaries earlier. For instance, the new schedule allows more states and more voters to weigh in on the process before the nomination is locked up. It also allows for a diverse set of voters to have their opinion heard. For example, in the past, most attention was given to Iowa and New Hampshire, but Nevada's early primary allows for a greater number of Hispanic voters to influence the process. Alarkon also outlines some of the proposals suggested for setting future primary calendars. They include letting the smallest states vote first, rotating the order of primaries or picking the first primaries by lottery.

De Lorenzo, Mauro; Shah, Apoorva ENTREPRENEURIAL PHILANTHROPY IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD: A NEW FACE FOR AMERICA, A CHALLENGE TO FOREIGN AID (American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, Development Policy Outlook, No. 3, December 2007)

Private philanthropists are redefining what counts as philanthropy and are on the cutting edge of development practice, say the authors. Entrepreneurial philanthropists provide credit and business education to small- and medium-sized enterprises in poor countries. They demand accountability but do not seek to make money from their efforts. "They have the potential to outflank often moribund development agencies and state-funded NGOs (nongovernmental organizations) by demonstrating that enterprise solutions to poverty are possible, scalable, and sustainable ... The services they offer are not supplied by governments or private companies anywhere in the developing world ... The financial value of their contributions exceeds the U.S. foreign aid budget," they write. Among the examples they cite is the New York-based Endeavor, which provides no financing but offers the contacts and training necessary for carefully selected "high-impact entrepreneurs" to attract investment and venture capital. Founded in 1997, Endeavor's services have helped business owners raise \$871 million in equity. The 267 business owners chosen -- most are located in Latin America -- have created 75,000 jobs and in 2006 alone generated \$1.5 billion in revenues. Available online at [http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.27220/pub\\_detail.asp](http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.27220/pub_detail.asp)

Dorroh, Jennifer ARMIES OF ONE (American Journalism Review, vol. 29, no. 6, December 2007/January 2008, pp 12-13)

The American Broadcasting Company (ABC) is launching the network's largest overseas expansion in over 20 years with new one-person foreign bureaus. Technology makes the expansion affordable. According to David Westin, ABC News president, "We can do several of these (one-person bureaus) for the price of one traditional bureau." A stand-alone multimedia reporter's equipment costs a mere \$10,000. The costs of running a traditional full-size bureau can run \$500,000 per year. The journalists who take on the new posts must be "Jacks-of-all-trades" who can handle digital video cameras, satellite dishes and laptops. They will be expected to record, edit and transmit their own audio and video reports from places like Nairobi, Jakarta, Mumbai, New Delhi, Rio de Janeiro, Seoul and Dubai as well as neighboring countries. Although most of their reporting will be for ABC's Internet outlets, the reporters will be expected to be first on the scene when a story breaks in their regions. "The correspondents aren't completely alone," Dorroh writes. "Each reports either to the London bureau or to the network's foreign desk in New York. Colleagues at ABC's various platforms edit their work, and they get logistical and technical support locally from stringers and from ABC News partners like the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation)."

Hagerman, Eric THE RACE TO BUILD THE 100 MPG CAR (Wired, vol. 16, no. 1, January 2008, pp. 102-117)

The U.S.-based X Prize Foundation dangles money to induce innovation; in hopes of jump-starting a commercial space-travel industry, the foundation offered the \$10 million Ansari X Prize for Spaceflight to a team that successfully sent a rocket plane to the edge of Earth's atmosphere twice in two weeks in 2004. Now the foundation sets its sights on urging the tinkerers of the world to build a better automobile, a car that can run 100 miles on a single gallon of gas. The winning design must also emit less than 200 grams of greenhouse gases per mile, and its makers must have a production plan for making 10,000 vehicles a year. "We don't want toys," says one advisor to the X Prize Foundation. Forty-three teams are in the running, and several are profiled in this article. Hagerman notes that the giant automakers are not competing, but will be watching what the entrants develop for possible adaptation to their own lines.

Jenkins, Philip BURNING AT THE STAKE: HOW GLOBAL WARMING WILL INCREASE RELIGIOUS STRIFE (New Republic, vol. 237, no. 11, December 10, 2007, pp. 14-15)

"By mid-century, water shortages could force countries already suffering from generations of ethnic and religious conflict to explode," warns Jenkins, author of GOD'S CONTINENT: CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM AND EUROPE'S RELIGIOUS CRISIS. This prediction of religious strife induced by climate change has precedent, Jenkins says. The "Little Ice Age" of the 14th century and the famines that resulted exacerbated bigotry and increased the violence against religious minorities in Europe, Jews especially. In today's world, he writes, "The resource-driven genocide in Darfur, for example, although it involves competing Muslim communities and not Muslim-Christian warfare, is a foretaste of conflicts that could soon be sweeping the whole area, as nations implode in sectarian violence, pulling neighboring countries down with them." According to Jenkins, the greater globalization of Christianity, while heightening some religious tensions in resource-poor countries, could also help prevent some of the worst abuses. He notes that the National Association of Evangelicals, an umbrella organization whose affiliate groups claim 30 million members, has recognized global climate change as a clear and present danger. "Combining the themes of world stewardship and protecting Christian minorities could lead to a whole new synthesis of religious and political action," Jenkins says.

Kriner, Douglas; Shen, Francis IRAQ CASUALTIES AND THE 2006 SENATE ELECTIONS (Legislative Studies Quarterly, vol. 32, no. 4, November 2007, pp. 507-530)

Kriner and Shen, from Boston and Harvard universities, respectively, find that increased casualty numbers in the Iraq war had a marked effect on the 2006 U.S. Senate elections. Proceeding on the assumption that "even the most national of issues ... may have a strong local component," they studied 2006 midterm election data from state and county levels. Despite the many facts that may inform the public in their evaluation of Iraq war policy, the authors maintain the number of American casualties is the "most concrete and publicly visible measure of the war's costs." Direct personal contact with war participants significantly influenced perceptions. They studied how the Iraq war was used by a number of candidates in their campaigns. While voting behavior differed from locality to locality, the authors concluded that Iraq war casualties had a significant and negative effect on Republican U.S. Senate candidates. They write that their results offer

“compelling evidence for the existence of a democratic brake on military adventurism,” which is strongest in communities sustaining the most losses.

Nordenson, Bree THE UNCLE SAM SOLUTION: CAN THE GOVERNMENT HELP THE PRESS? SHOULD IT? (Columbia Journalism Review, vol. 46, no. 3, September/October 2007, pp. 37-41)

The future of American newspapers has become a topic of increasing concern as circulation wanes and editorial cutbacks affect the quality of journalism. Top editors, experts and a media investor discuss the viability of government support of good news outlets with lagging profits. University of Illinois professor Robert McChesney notes that America's founders protected the press in the Constitution and subsidized three newspapers in each state, because without that, “there would be places with no newspapers.” Serious newsgathering is seldom done in Internet-based media, and newspapers continue to cut investigative reporting resources. This is despite the fact that editorial costs make up only nine to twelve percent of the average newspaper's budget. But there is substantial opposition among journalists to government subsidies, editor Geneva Overholser says, adding that it should be carefully considered rather than rejected outright. European examples are given, the British Broadcasting Corporation among them, which show how government support has bolstered a free press and preserved it from undue corporate influence. Government support of American public broadcasting is also discussed. Prejudices against government should be discarded when survival of journalism is at stake, writes the author, who quotes McChesney: “The nation was built on the idea that we have to put into place policies that guarantee journalism no matter what.”

Strupp, Joe WEB BEATS PRINT: NO LONGER ON THE FRINGE, POLITICAL BLOGGERS NOW DRIVE COVERAGE (Editor & Publisher, vol. 140, no. 12, December 2007, pp. 22-27)

Mainstream news outlets have embraced the Web log, making political blogs key features of campaign coverage. The author interviews political bloggers from the Los Angeles Times, Reno Gazette-Journal, The Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune and The Washington Post. They say blogs provide more information sooner, but it's demanding work and the results are unpredictable. “It is an online newsreel,” says Michael Tackett of the Chicago Tribune's “The Swamp,” adding that anything goes: serious reporting comes alongside gossip, trivia and campaign ad videos. Blogs allow greater freedom and can give a local flavor. “It is like a conversation, and it does not take as much context as a story because it is for people who know the context,” says the Reno Gazette Journal's Anjeanette Damon. But writing at a fever pitch opens the doors to more editorial slips and errors. Cross-referencing competitors is new. It is part of Internet culture to feature a “blogroll,” links to other similar blogs. Blogs also invite readers to post comments. The author maintains that, thanks to blogs, candidates now receive unprecedented exposure.

Thornton, John L. LONG TIME COMING: THE PROSPECTS FOR DEMOCRACY IN CHINA (Foreign Affairs, Vol. 87, No. 1, January-February 2008)

The Chinese view of democracy differs from the Western view, but many Chinese want more democracy and believe it is coming, according to the author, a professor at Tsinghua University in Beijing and chairman of the board of the Brookings Institution. Elections have been held in rural Chinese villages already for 20 years. Elections of pre-selected candidates have been held in a few townships and counties, the next administrative levels up. Perhaps more importantly, the Chinese Communist Party is putting forward multiple candidates for certain party positions; some observers imagine party factions could emerge in such a scheme that would make the party resemble Japan's long-ruling Liberal Democratic party, where policy differences are part of the legitimate process. The Chinese are also taking steps to make their judicial system and administrative system less corrupt, more open to challenge, and rooted in rule of law. “Optimists believe that gradualism will make the current liberalization last longer than the euphoric, but ultimately failed, experiences of the past,” Thornton said. Currently available online at <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20080101faessay87101/john-l-thornton/long-time-coming.html>

## ECONOMIC SECURITY

FOOD PRICES, CHEAP NO MORE (Economist, vol. 385, no. 8558, December 8, 2007, pp. 81-83)

During the last couple of years, food prices have risen dramatically, and are at their highest levels in years. In the past, high food prices have usually been the result of poor harvests, but they are now occurring during a time of great abundance: the total cereals crop for 2007 is about 1.66 billion tons, the largest on record, and 89 million tons more than the 2006 harvest. At the same time, world grain reserve stocks as a percentage of production are at all-time lows. Several factors are contributing to this rise. First, demand for meat is growing in China and India, resulting in much greater consumption of grain to feed animals. Secondly, production of biofuels is consuming an ever-greater percentage of corn and other crops, that would otherwise go to feed people. Third, rising oil prices are increasing the cost of growing, processing and transporting grain. This has had an effect on other non-grain crops, as farmers devote more acreage to growing corn or soybeans for biofuels. The increase in food prices will hit developing countries the hardest; while farmers will benefit, the majority of the world's poor are net food buyers.

Cline, William GLOBAL WARMING LOSERS (International Economy, vol. 21, no. 4, Fall 2007, pp. 62-65)

The author, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics and the Center for Global Development, and the author of GLOBAL WARMING AND AGRICULTURE: IMPACT ESTIMATES BY COUNTRY, writes that his studies show that global warming will have a more adverse effect on agriculture than has previously been assumed. While some northern regions will become more agriculturally productive due to rising temperatures, they will be more than cancelled out by losses in agricultural productivity in temperate and equatorial areas. Regions that could experience a 25 percent or greater loss in productivity in the coming decades includes much of the developing world -- Central and South America, Africa, the Middle East, South Asia and the entire Indian subcontinent. Cline notes that these findings indicate that international efforts to curb global warming are essential, and that the next step is to deflect the rapidly rising emissions of developing countries. He singles out India, whose dire agricultural prospects should spur it to participate in international efforts to reduce emissions, and exert peer pressure on China to do so as well.

Frankel, Barbara ABSOLUTE VALUES (DiversityInc, vol. 6, no. 10, November/December 2007, pp. 22//67)

The author, a senior vice president at DiversityInc, offers seven lessons learned from the nation's diversity leaders, companies on The DiversityInc Top 50 Companies for Diversity list. As the subject of diversity management evolves, companies have emerged with strong core values that cannot be compromised and that are integral to critical business strategies. The lessons discussed in this article came from a series of roundtables held in June 2007 with thirteen chief diversity officers who relate what they consider to be most important to their corporations. All believe that full commitment to values of inclusion, respect and appreciation for differences. Among the conclusions drawn are that real diversity excludes no one; there is no "melting pot"; diversity improves the bottom line; metrics, or standards, prove the case in measuring the impact of diversity; and employee groups are the key to marketing, sales and recruiting. Global diversity is in its infancy and the parameters are still being established; the author notes that companies must be "ahead of the curve" as they can reap the financial awards if they are constantly innovating and learning new and improved ways to connect with their employees, customers and investors.

Leslie, Jacques THE LAST EMPIRE: CHINA'S POLLUTION PROBLEM GOES GLOBAL (Mother Jones, vol. 33, no. 1, January/February 2008)

The author writes that the emergence of China as a world economic power is "an epochal event, as significant as the United States' ascendancy after World War II." It has also resulted in the biggest building boom and the largest transfer of natural resources in human history. China has become the world's biggest producer of manufactured goods, the most ravenous consumer of

raw materials and natural resources, and the world's biggest polluter, having recently surpassed the U.S. as the biggest emitter of carbon dioxide. The environmental degradation both in China and abroad, ranging from deforestation, loss of species, desertification and mercury and sulfur dioxide pollution, has been staggering. The author notes, however, that when economic-development delegations from China began visiting the West in the late 1970s and early 1980s to see how developed economies fostered growth, the conclusion they came to was that automobile-centered suburban sprawl was the model to be followed. "The United States passed up the opportunity it had at the beginning of China's economic transformation to guide it toward sustainability, and the loss is already incalculable," writes Leslie. He notes that, even though humanity is at the edge of a global environmental abyss, it is presumptuous to expect China to cut its emissions equally with the U.S.; "all that is left is the one option that would have served Americans (and the world) best all along, which is to model environmental sanity."

Zweibel, Ken; Mason, James; Fthenakis, Vasilis A SOLAR GRAND PLAN (Scientific American, January 2008)

Solar power could eliminate U.S. dependence on imported oil and slash greenhouse gas emissions, note the authors, in this article on a bold proposal to construct a nation-wide solar-energy generation and distribution system by the year 2050. The U.S. has a quarter-million square miles in the Southwest on which tracts of photovoltaic panels and parabolic-trough solar concentrators could be built, and the electricity generated would be transmitted along high-voltage direct current lines, far more efficiently than the alternating-current lines in use today; compressed-air or molten-salt systems would be employed for overnight energy storage. It would cost the federal government USD 400 billion over the next four decades to build it, but the payoff would be far greater. The major hurdle is not technology or money, but an awareness by elected officials and the public that solar power is a practical alternative. Currently available online at <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=a-solar-grand-plan>

## INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Hosford, Zachary M. THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES AND ARMS CONTROL (Arms Control Today, vol. 37, no. 10, December 2007, pp. 31-34)

The U.S. presidential campaign has given voice to a range of views on arms control and nonproliferation topics, ranging from ballistic missile defense to the status of the U.S. nuclear arsenal. The author points out that many of the candidates' positions reflect posturing for the primaries, and the rhetoric may be different once nominees have been endorsed at the Democratic and Republican conventions. Hosford also points out that world events may cause candidates to alter their positions in the final run-up. Still, there is general agreement among the candidates about certain issues, such as that Iran should not be equipped with nuclear weapons. Various candidates see different ways to prevent the advent of nuclear terrorism, but Republican Governor Mitt Romney advocates creating new international laws to make nuclear trafficking a crime against humanity. He and Democratic Senator Hillary Clinton have said they will create a senior position to fight the spread of nuclear terrorism. Former Democratic Senator John Edwards says he will create a new "Global Nuclear Compact" to strengthen the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and close any gaps that might allow rogue states to divert nuclear materials or misuse nuclear facilities. Democratic Senator Barack Obama supports an NPT provision to automatically trigger strong international sanctions against potential treaty violators. But Republican Senator John McCain disagrees with the proposition that nuclear technology can be shared responsibly without the potential threat of proliferation. He is equally tough on missile defense, saying he dismisses Russia's objections. Republican candidate Rudy Giuliani also vows to press ahead on the program while Republican Senator Ron Paul sees it as unnecessary. This article may viewed on the Internet at [http://www.armscontrol.org/act/2007\\_12/NewsAnalysis.asp](http://www.armscontrol.org/act/2007_12/NewsAnalysis.asp)

Luongo, Kenneth; Williams, Isabelle THE NEXUS OF GLOBALIZATION AND NEXT-GENERATION NONPROLIFERATION: TAPPING THE POWER OF MARKET-BASED SOLUTIONS (Nonproliferation Review, vol. 14, no. 3, November 2007, pp. 459-473)

The authors examine the problem that advanced biological and nuclear technology, once the exclusive province of states, now may pass readily to non-state actors putting economic as well as civilian and military targets at risk. They urge new creative thinking to develop a stronger more flexible next-generation nonproliferation strategy and one that might combine targeted sanctions, political engagement and focused economic incentives so as to "begin the important process of moderating government behavior by empowering the private sector." While containing the spread of technologies needed to produce fissile materials and securing fissile material stockpiles remain at the heart of the nuclear proliferation challenge, they also cite the additional challenge of biological proliferation. They note inadequate biotechnology industry oversight and the absence of standardized international rules for biosecurity, especially in Asia. They advocate finding ways to draw the commercial sector into identifying solutions, since this sector has so much at risk financially should a nuclear or biological disaster occur. After examining case studies of formal and informal nonproliferation efforts in Russia, Libya, Iran and North Korea, the authors say the international community is at a critical nonproliferation juncture and it must enlist the full range of stakeholders. A successful future strategy must integrate economic, political and technological issues drawing on key arms control treaties as well as modern ad hoc mechanisms "emphasizing cooperation, flexibility and market-based solutions." Available online at <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content?content=10.1080/10736700701611746>

Richardson, Bill A NEW REALISM: CRAFTING A US FOREIGN POLICY FOR A NEW CENTURY (Harvard International Review, vol. 29, no. 2, Summer 2007, pp. 26-30)

American foreign policy makers face many new challenges in the 21st century. Problems that were once national have now gone global. The author believes that that the U.S. must create a foreign policy that is uniquely adapted to the world of global challenges. America remains vulnerable to terrorism as we fight new security challenges with old-fashioned, military methods. Richardson, governor of New Mexico and former U.S. Representative to the United Nations, identifies six trends that are transforming the world, including fanatical jihadism, illegal weapons trade, rise of Asian and Russian powers, and the growth of globalization in economic, health, environmental and social terms.

Shachtman, Noah WHAT WENT WRONG (Wired, vol. 15, no. 12, December 2007)

In Afghanistan and the 2003 Iraq war, soldiers on the ground handed off coordinates to bombers and fighter planes, who attacked with laser- and satellite-guided munitions. Net-centric warfare was supposed to win in Iraq; while the technology worked well, the most important networks were not electronic but social. Inside the Pentagon, the term network-centric warfare is out of fashion, yet countless generals and admirals still adhere to its core principles. On the streets of Iraq, though, troops are learning to grapple with the guerrilla threat; the failures of wired combat are forcing troops to improvise a new, socially networked kind of war. Today, U.S. troops are performing a wide variety of functions apart with traditional combat. To complement this story, Wired asked four photographers to create images depicting the intersection of technology and war.

Shapiro, Jacob; Cohen, Dara Kay COLOR BLIND: LESSONS FROM THE FAILED HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY SYSTEM (International Security, Vol. 32, No. 2, Fall 2007, pp. 121-154)

Noting that the point of a terrorism alert system is to get people to take measures to thwart terrorism, the authors regard the Department of Homeland Security's color-coded advisory system as a failure. For an alert system to succeed, the authors note, the issuing government must either share the information behind the alert, or operate the system with so much success that people always trust the government's word when an alert is issued. They believe that the "color-coded" system has come to be perceived by the public as neither particularly confiding nor trustworthy, and that as a result the public and local governments have marginalized a system they now consider to be politically manipulated. Not all of this is the Department of Homeland Security's fault, they add, but even so, a diminished popular reputation has crippled its warning system. As an alternative system, the authors propose the federal government negotiate in advance a set of measures to be taken at each alert level by business and local government.



This new system would enable the government to specify a threat in a single geographic area; in return, federal authorities would have to be more specific about how serious they thought the threat was. Negotiating in advance with the private sector and smaller governments will enhance confidence in the system, the authors assert.

Xinbo, Wu UNDERSTANDING CHINESE AND U.S. CRISIS BEHAVIOR (Washington Quarterly, vol. 31, no. 1, Winter 2007, pp. 61-76)

The author, a professor and deputy director of the Center for American Studies at Fudan University in Shanghai, examines how China and the U.S. reacted to two recent “accidental crises” between the two sides — the 1999 U.S. bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade and the 2001 mid-air collision of a U.S. reconnaissance aircraft with a Chinese fighter plane — to suggest ways to deal with future crises. Much of the difficulty involved in both situations was the result of cultural differences. The Chinese place great emphasis on symbolic gestures and focus on assigning responsibility and maintaining national sovereignty and dignity, while the Americans are more direct and utilitarian. In future crises, the two sides should work to establish channels of communication as quickly as possible (through the foreign ministries rather than the military). Emphasis should be on quiet diplomacy rather than “overt vociferation,” and both sides must remember that it is in their best interests to “work to return to a normal and stable relationship as quickly as possible.”

## U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

Cole, Yoji CORPORATE AMERICA IN A POST-ADA WORLD (DiversityInc, vol. 6, no. 10, November/December 2007, pp. 70-76)

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) opened some doors in the workplace but opportunities for people with disabilities remain elusive. However, executives with disabilities, interviewed for this article, credit the ADA with broadening the opportunities in corporate America but emphasize that legislation alone cannot create a culture completely accepting of people with disabilities. For that to happen, more people with disabilities must self-identify and demonstrate their talents. ADA requires employees to provide access and technology to help people with disabilities succeed at work but it does not force recruitment efforts. This is changing as the lack of skilled workers in the United States has forced corporations to focus attention on the talents of a group of people previously ignored, including people with disabilities and people of color. The article includes list of organizations that provide support for the almost 305,000 members of the U.S. military who were disabled in the line of duty during the Iraq War. The complete list can be found online at <http://www.DiversityInc.com/veterans>.

Gottschild, Brenda THE MOVEMENT IS THE MESSAGE (Dance Magazine, vol. 82, no. 1, January 2008, pp. 62//68)

Dancers have responded to social ills throughout the history of modern dance as dancers have mixed activism with art. Today, they are responding to a rainbow of causes, including the war in Iraq, breast cancer, racism, global warming, sexual abuse, torture tactics, domestic violence, environmental pollution, and homophobia. A new group of socially engaged works has emerged that allows contemporary artists to follow in the footsteps of their aesthetic ancestors, particularly since the wake-up call of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Urban Bush Women, Compagnie JANT-BI, Spectrum Dance Theater, Jane Comfort and Company, and Ananya Dance Theatre, profiled in this article, are among the contemporary groups who are exploring an area of performance that is still considered dangerous territory, especially when such artists risk their artistic integrity to take on such socially conscious themes. Two examples: Jane Comfort and Company, based in New York City, has created a work, An American Rendition, that uses dance images to symbolize hostages being tortured in remote outposts; another, Ananya Dance Theatre, in Minneapolis, tailors its ensemble of all-female dancers to performances that depict environmental pollution and the racism inherent in poisoning poor people's neighborhoods.

Johnson, Joyce REMEMBERING JACK KEROUAC (Smithsonian, vol. 38, no. 6, September 2007, pp. 115-121)

The author, a writer and friend of Jack Kerouac, writes that the publication of ON THE ROAD in 1957 “uncorked all that bottled-up restlessness” of what has been called the Silent Generation, the children of parents who had lived through the upheavals of the first half of the twentieth century. They “anxiously pursued a narrow definition of the American Dream, terrified of losing their hard-won middle-class status”, and taught their children to keep their heads down. In this staid era, Kerouac’s ON THE ROAD defined a craving for new experiences, a desire to pack as much intensity as possible into each moment. Fifty years after it was published, Johnson writes, Kerouac’s voice still calls out: “look around you, stay open, question the roles society has thrust upon you, don’t give up the search for connection and meaning.”

Rieff, David, et al. ORWELL IN '08 (Columbia Journalism Review, vol. 46, no. 4, November-December 2007, pp. 26-39)

George Orwell's classic 1946 essay, "Politics and the English Language," attacked murky writing, such as dying metaphors, pretentious diction, meaningless words, and proposed that clear writing can lead to clear thinking and a better world. Principally, he went after fuzzy academics, though he included a sample of communist propaganda among his targets. After that, Orwell began work on his great book, 1984, which introduced the reader to the concept of Newspeak, the fictional but terrifying system of language designed to hobble and crush independent thought. In four essays excerpted from a new book WHAT ORWELL DIDN'T KNOW: PROPAGANDA AND THE NEW FACE OF AMERICAN POLITICS, David Rieff (“Orwell Abuse”) considers Orwell as a model; Aryeh Neier (“Rights and Wrongs”) discusses the misuse of three familiar words “freedom,” “liberty,” and “rights”; Nicholas Lemann (“The Limits of Language”) worries less about bad language than about bad information; and Geoffrey Cowan (“‘Surge,’ Meet Escalation”) provides a case study in which reporters take a stand on language that affects the discourse on the war in Iraq. Finally, Brent Cunningham, CJR's managing editor, proposes (“The Rhetoric Beat”) that journalists, who are in major position to define language, help clarify public thinking in a world that seems to need it.

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